

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06728 081736Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 081705Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7355

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BE, HU

SUBJECT: VISIT BY BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO HUNGARY, JULY
8-10, 1976

1. BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RENAAT VAN ELSLANDE, ACCOMPANIED BY HEAD OF FOREIGN MINISTRY EAST-WEST AFFAIRS PAUL REUSENS WILL VISIT HUNGARY JULY 8-10 AS PART OF SERIES OF VISITS TO EASTERN EUROPE, WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY INCLUDE WARSAW, MOSCOW, PRAGUE, BUCHAREST AND EAST BERLIN. VAN ELSLANDE EXPECTS TO MEET WITH FIRST SECRETARY JANOS KADAR AND HEAD OF GOVERNMENT GEORGE LAZAR ON JULY 9.

2. BELGIAN-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS MAY BE CHARACTERIZED AS GOOD, BUT NOT VERY DEVELOPED. A CULTURAL AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BETWEEN THE TWO LAST YEAR, BUT LITTLE HAS BEEN DONE ON BELGIAN SIDE TO IMPLEMENT IT. THIS IS EXPECTED TO BE ONE OF SUBJECTS DISCUSSED BY FOREIGN MINISTERS. ANOTHER WILL BE GENERAL
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 06728 081736Z

REVIEW OF CSCE FINAL ACT.

3. BELGIAN ENJOYS A FAVORABLE BALANCE IN ITS MODEST TRADE WITH HUNGARY, ESPECIALLY SINCE 1973. (1974: BELGIAN EXPORTS- BF 1,522 MILLION; IMPORTS - BF 889 MILLION. 1975: EXPORTS - BF 1,650 MILLION; IMPORTS - BF 944 MILLION.) A BELGIAN TRADE DELEGATION LED BY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER TOUSSAINT VISITED HUNGARY IN OCTOBER 1975. ONE ECONOMIC ISSUE THAT MAY BE RAISED DURING VAN ELSLANDE'S VISIT IS HUNGARIAN DISPLEASURE WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITY RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF HUNGARIAN MEAT.

4. AN UNRELATED BUT PARALLEL DEVELOPMENT, PRESIDENT OF BELGIUM COMMUNIST PARTY LOUIS VAN GEYT AND NATIONAL SECRETARY MARCEL COUTEAU WENT TO BUDAPEST JULY 7 FOR FRATERNAL MEETING WITH KADAR.FIRESTONE

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